

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

By way of the instant amendment, claims 16-20 have been added. Thus, claims 1-20 remain for examination.

Prior Art Rejection:

Claims claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chin et al (US6670950B1). Claims 1, 3, and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iredale (US6392877B1). Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(e) as being anticipated by Rosenberg et al (US6429846B2). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chine et al. (US6670950B1) in view of Chiang (US5973622). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chine et al. (US6670950B1) in view of Applicant Admit over Prior Art (AAPA). Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chine et al. (US6670950B1) in view of Mohi et al (US6377456B1). Finally, claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iredale (US6392877B1) in view of Applicant Admit over Prior Art (AAPA) and Sung (US 6587231B1).

The examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

As to the rejected claims, claims 1 and 11 are independent. Claim 1 includes the limitation of "a flat input surface laid on the inner surface of the operation area", and claim 11 includes the limitation of "a flat input surface laid on the inner surface of the outside wall". In the claim 1, the flat input surface that receives input operations is laid on the inner surface of the operation area of the outside wall, and the input operation is performed through the operation area. In the claim 11, the flat input surface of the pointing device is laid on the inner surface of the outside wall.

None of the cited references disclose the above limitations.

As to independent claim 1, the examiner, citing Chin, identifies area 48 as

the operation area. However, the flat input surface must be laid on the inner surface of the operation area and moreover, the flat input surface must receive input operations through the operation area. Such structure is clearly not shown in Chin.

As to Iredale, the above argument is also applicable. The operation area which the examiner identifies as area 50 can not meet applicant's claimed limitations since the input surface must be laid on the inner surface of the operation area and moreover, the flat input surface must receive input operations through the operation area. Such structure is clearly not shown in Iredale.

As to Rosenberg, the operation area is identified by the examiner as area 16 (26). However, this area 16 (26) can not meet applicant's claimed limitations since the input surface must be laid on the inner surface of the operation area and moreover, the flat input surface must receive input operations through the operation area. Such structure is clearly not shown in Rosenberg.

As to independent claim 11 the examiner combines the teachings of Irendale; AAPA and Sung. The rejection is not understood. In particular, applicant does not understand the examiner's reference to AAPA by the citation of a column and line number. Is the examiner referring to a certain page of applicant's application as originally filed? If the examiner persist in this rejection, the examiner is requested to clarify the grounds of the rejection by particularly pointing out the alleged admitted prior art. The Irendale reference has already been discussed above. The main deficiency of the primary reference that there is no disclosure of the pointing device having a flat input surface laid on the inner surface of the outside wall. The secondary references likewise do not supply the missing ingredient (although, as pointed out above, applicant does not understand the examiner's reference to AAPA). As such the Patent and Trademark Office has not made out a prima facie case of obviousness under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103.

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Applicant's dependent claims are deemed to be patentable at least for the same reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 11.

Applicant has added new claims 16-20. Of these claims, only claim 16 is independent. Claim 16, in a similar fashion to claim 11, recites "the pointing device having a flat input surface laid on the inner surface of the outside wall". As such this claim likewise distinguishes applicant's invention over the prior art and is deemed patentable thereover. As such dependent claims 17-20 are likewise deemed patentable.

Conclusions:

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

7-26-04

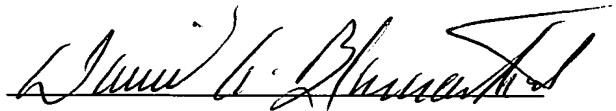
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